

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Howard Klein, Reg. No. 28,727 on February 3, 2009.

The claims are amended as follows:

Claim 1, lines ³⁻⁷~~2-6~~ are amended to read:

SB 3-4-09

i) providing a two-part metal probe including a first probe part having a first metal element of a first size and a first specific resistivity \underline{R}_C , said first probe part constituting an exposed element, and a second probe part having a second metal element of a second size and a second specific resistivity \underline{R}_R , said second probe part constituting an environmentally isolated reference element;

Claim 3 is amended to read:

The method according to claim 1, said step xii being performed in accordance with the following equation:

$$\sigma(t) = \sigma(t=0) \cdot \frac{R_R(t)}{R_C(t)} \cdot \frac{R_C(t=0)}{R_R(t=0)}$$